

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BONN 05340 251807Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 CU-02 DHA-02 IO-13 /082 W

-----260720Z 106793 /22

R 251756Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6838

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BONN 05340

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CSCE, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE: ACRIMONIOUS BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: BONN 01539

1. THE MARCH 23 SPECIAL BUNDESTAG SESSION TO DEBATE
HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE HELSINKI FINAL
ACT LED TO NUMEROUS BITTER PERSONAL EXCHANGES AMONG
GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION SPEAKERS AND LITTLE, IF ANY,
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BONN 05340 251807Z

PROGRESS ON RECONCILING THEIR CONFLICTING VIEWS ON THE
PROPER APPROACH TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE. THE
OCCASION FOR THE DEBATE WAS A CDU/CSU MOTION THAT THE
GOVERNMENT PREPARE A REPORT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION
IN GERMANY AND OF THE GERMANS LIVING IN THE COMMUNIST
STATES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

2. DURING HIS INTERVENTION, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ARGUED THE FRG HAD ALWAYS STOOD FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE IN THE WORLD. HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WANTED TO AVOID RHETORICAL BATTLES IN THE BUNDESTAG, PREFERING INSTEAD TO WORK PERSISTENTLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, SOMETHING MORE EFFECTIVE THAN TALK. SCHMIDT ADVANCED AGAIN THE FRG VIEW THAT BELGRADE SHOULD NOT BE A "FORUM OF CONFRONTATION," THEREBY ENDANGERING ALL THAT HAD THUS FAR BEEN ACHIEVED UNDER THE FINAL ACT. THE CHANCELLOR REFERRED TO THE EMIGRATION OF 60,000 GERMANS FROM EASTERN EUROPE SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT AS A SIGNIFICANT PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THOSE WHO HAD RESETTLED IN THE FRG.

3. CDU/CSU OPPOSITION LEADER KOHL PRESENTED HIS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP'S POSITION AS ONE IN WHICH THE CDU/CSU DID NOT DEMAND AN ALL OR NOTHING POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS. THE OPPOSITION DID NOT WANT BELGRADE TO BE A TRIBUNAL. ON THE OTHER HAND, NEITHER DID THE OPPOSITION WANT BELGRADE TO BE A "FESTIVAL OF HARMONY" IN WHICH HARD FACTS WERE SWEEPED UNDER THE RUG.

4. COMMENT: THE LATEST DEBATE ON CSCE REPRESENTS A CONTINUATION OF THE PUBLIC POLEMICS IN THE FRG ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT (REFTEL). THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT WILLING TO PREPARE A REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST GERMANS TO USE AS A CLUB IN BELGRADE. INSTEAD, COALITION SPEAKERS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE FRG WOULD HEW TO THE POSITION THAT BELGRADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BONN 05340 251807Z

SHOULD NOT DETERIORATE INTO CONFRONTATION WITH THE EAST.

5. THE OPPOSITION, WHILE INITIALLY OPPOSED TO THE SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT'S SIGNING OF THE FINAL ACT IN AUGUST 1975, NOW ACCEPTS THE ACCORDS AND WISHES TO EXPLOIT THEIR POLITICAL POTENTIAL VIS-A-VIS THE EAST, PARTICULARLY TO ADVANCE AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF ETHNIC GERMANS STILL LIVING THERE. WHETHER THIS IS FEASIBLE UNDER THE OPPOSITION'S APPROACH IS THE HEART OF THE DEBATE. THE OPPOSITION IS QUITE PLEASED WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FEELS VERY COMFORTABLE IN URGING THE FRG TO ADOPT A SIMILAR OFFENSIVE POSTURE. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT THE DIFFERENCE IN APPROACH BETWEEN COALITION AND OPPOSITION WILL CONTINUE RIGHT UP TO THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE.

STOESSEL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, HUMAN RIGHTS, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, OPPOSITION PARTIES, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BONN05340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0370
Format: TEL
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770323/aaaaatum.tel
Line Count: 115
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fe9261b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BONN 1539
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3001374
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CSCE: ACRIMONIOUS BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: PFOR, GE, XH, NATO, CSCE, (SCHMIDT, HELMUT), (KOHL, HELMUT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fe9261b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009